

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 111645Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9763

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6683

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR PINS BY VT

SUB VATICAN INTEREST IN BURUNDI

REFERENCE STATE 132550; DAR ES SALAAM 2296; ROME 6277

1. WE INFORMED VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR BURUNDI JULY 11 OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT GOWAN AND NYERERE BEST TWO AFRICAN LEADERS FOR VATICAN TO APPROACH, AND OF OUR SUBSTANTIATING REASONS. DESK OFFICER MOST APPRECIATIVE OF OUR ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH COINCIDES WITH HIS OWN FORCEFUL IDEAS. HE ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD MAKE STRONG APPEAL TO ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI TO HAVE HOLY SEE REPRESENTATIVES IN LAGOS AND DAR ES SALAAM DISCUSS DECISION BURUNDI SITUATION WITH GOWAN AND NYERERE. SOURCE FEELS HOLY SEE SHOULD STRESS THAT BRUNDI PROBLEM OF CONCERN TO ALL AFRICANS AND THAT THERE PRESSING NEED FOR ACTIVE OAU INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP OBSERVER MISSION WITHIN
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BURUNDI.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT BASED ON ITS EXPERIENCE LAST YEAR HE NOT SANGUINE THAT VATICAN INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT. WE POINTED OUT THAT BURUNDI PROBLEM HAS NOW SEEMINGLY BECOME ENDEMIC AND ONE COULD MAKE MUCH BETTER CASE FOR AFRICANS TAKING STRONG

COLLECTIVE ACTION THAN WAS CASE LAST YEAR. HE AGREED AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS SUPERIORS WOULD AGREE TO MAKING THESE FORCEFUL POINTS TO GOWAN AND NYERERE.

3. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON, ARCHBISHOP JADO, TOLD US THAT HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED BURUNDI SITUATION WITH CAMERUMIAN PRESIDENT AHIDJO WHO EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REMAIN UNINVOLVED.

4. VATICAN SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY "OSSERVATORE ROMANO" JULY 10 PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF "APPEAL OF BISHOP OF BURUNDI TO CHRISTIANS TO ALL THE WORLD." INTER ALIA, VAGUE TEXT CASTIGATES FOREIGN PRESS AND SPECULATIVE FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR CAUSING MUCH OF BURUNDI'S DIFFICULTIES. OUR SOURCE AGREED THAT BISHOPS ANALYSIS FAR FROM MARK. VOLPE

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